

Weekly Views

March 30, 2012

Marion Superior Court Judge David Certo held an open forum question and answer session with Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility's (IREF) Reformative Residential Re-Entry Program (RRRP) participants during the group's "Coffee Talk" hour. Each morning, before the start of their day, residents come together to discuss issues pertaining to the RRRP core values: Honesty, Tolerance, Caring for Others, and Personal Responsibility. IREF Superintendent Steven Keever and Assistant Superintendent Mike Pavese also answered residents' questions pertaining to Department's re-entry and community efforts.

Miami Correctional Facility staff met with fellow Correctional Officer Rodney Gahl. Officer Gahl was recently released from the hospital after being seriously assaulted by an offender on February 29, 2012. Superintendent Mark Sevier presented Officer Gahl with a check for almost \$2000 raised through a bake sale, a pizza sale, and donations from staff and the Correctional Professionals Assistance Fund of Indiana. Officer Gahl is doing well and thanked the facility and staff Department-wide for their cards, well wishes, and kindness during his continued recuperation.

For seven days Edinburgh Correctional Facility supported the cleanup efforts in Henryville, IN. Edinburgh sent four offender work crews to the Henryville and Marysville area with 10 offenders per crew under the supervision of Edinburgh Correctional Officers and Correctional Sergeants. In total Edinburgh provided approximately 3500 man hours.

Staff and offenders from the Henryville Correctional Facility assisted the community of Henryville in removing debris after an F-4 tornado destroyed much of the school and town of Henryville. The IDOC's Emergency Operations Command requested assistance from staff and offenders from the facility to help clear roads, separate types of debris, load vehicles and remove trash from the stricken area. Under the supervision of James Basinger, Executive Director of Adult Facilities, and Kevin Orme, Director of Construction Services, the offenders provided 4,950 man hours of labor to the cleanup efforts. The facility worked for nine consecutive days on the disaster.

Staff and offenders at the Rockville Correctional Facility joined forces to raise \$650 for southern Indiana storm relief. The grand total resulted from direct donations as well as proceeds for Culinary Arts luncheon sales to staff members.

Eleven offenders from the Madison Correctional Facility passed their state exams for licensing. Six received state licenses for cosmetology and five for manicurist.

A Prison Greyhound program was implemented at the Putnamville Correctional Facility with the arrival of Dillinger, Rosy and Gordy. Over the next three months, six offenders will receive interactive instruction on training and socialization of the retired race dogs after which the canines will be adopted out to families. Case Managers Ed Joslyn and Steve Shotwell is the coordinator and assistant coordinator, respectively. For additional information visit www.prisongreyhounds.org

The Pendleton Correctional Facility held an Easter Egg Hunt for employees and their families at the facility's Recreation Area. Separate egg hunts were set up for children representing three different age groups and approximately 30 children participated. The successful event was planned and organized by the facility's Employee Appreciation Committee.

Westville's Therapeutic Community Basketball team hosted an evening of joyous competition with the Concordia Seminary students from Ft. Wayne, IN. Although the Concordia students triumphed over our WCC TC team, 71-63, the evening was filled with fellowship and fun. The students from Concordia were delighted to bring their message of hope and salvation into the facility.

The Indiana Canine Assistance Network (ICAN) sponsored a graduation for seven ICAN dogs at the Indiana Women's Prison. There were over 140 attendees from throughout the state. The offender handlers completed a successful two week team training process which consisted of training the clients to work with their new canine assistant. The graduation concluded a two year training process for the dogs in a total of three different IDOC Facilities. Superintendent McCauley stated "I'm proud to have this unique component of the ICAN Program at the Indiana Women's Prison. It's unique because the client comes into the facility and is matched with the canine assistant, and then with coaching from the offender handler the two began specific training for the clients. This is just one way our facility gives back to the community."

Six women from the Rockville Correctional Facility were interactive participants during a live episode of Oprah's Lifeclass on the Oprah Winfrey Network. The women answered questions asked by both Oprah and her guest Iyanla Vanzant. The offenders will participate in two more episodes on April 2nd and 16th.

Miami Correctional Facility's American Legion Post 555 held their monthly meeting. Post 555 received special recognition from 5th District Commander Jerry Stevens, 5th District Membership Chairman Richard Thomas, and Department Commander Michael Miller for earning 1st place in the district with a 135.14% membership rating. Post 555 was commended for their "top of the list" placement and it was noted that this is "quite an achievement". A special certificate and ribbons to hang from the Post's flag were presented to commemorate the occasion.